

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/986,795

Examiner

Qing-Yuan Wu

Applicant(s)

MATSUBAYASHI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/26/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31 and 46-64 renumbered as 1-50.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____


WILLIAM THOMSON
SUPERVISORY EXAMINER

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior art of record does not expressly teach or render obvious, in the context of the claims taken as a whole, the invention as recited in independent claims 1, 16, 31 and 46.

2. Receiving, from an information processing apparatus, a request for the user to obtain exclusive control of the device's capabilities; determining, by the device, whether the device is available for the user to obtain exclusive control of the device's capabilities and in a case where the device determines in the determining step that the device is available for the user to obtain exclusive control of the device's capabilities, providing, by the device, the user exclusive control of the device's capabilities was uncovered in U.S. Patent 5,611,050 (Theimer et al). The queuing of exclusive access request was uncovered in U.S. Publication 20020007422 (Bennett).

Requesting, by the information processing apparatus, that the device process a job using the device's capabilities; adding, by the device the requested job to a job queue of jobs to be processed using the device's capabilities and deferring processing of job was uncovered in U.S. Patent 5,633,932 (Davis et al.). However, the reference taken alone or in combination do not expressly teach or render obvious, in the context of the claims taken as a whole, wherein, if the device provides exclusive control of the device's capabilities to the user when the user is at a first position within the reservation queue, a job at a first position within the job queue, corresponding to a user other than the user who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, is deferred from being processed during a period in which the user, who has been provided exclusive control of the device's capabilities, maintains exclusive control of the

device' s capabilities as recited substantially in independent claims 1, 16, 31 and 46.

Nor was a reference uncovered that would have provided a basis of evidence for asserting a motivation that one of ordinary skill level in the art at the time the invention was made, knowing the teaching of Theimer et al., Bennett and Davis et al. would have combined to arrived at the present invention as recited in the context of independent claims 1, 16, 31 and 46.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qing-Yuan Wu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3776. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-6:00pm Monday-Thursday and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Thomson can be reached on (571) 272-3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Qing-Yuan Wu

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Patent Examiner



WILLIAM THOMSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER